

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

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P R 101604Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4908

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS (A) LISBON 6632 DTG 101105Z NOV 75

(B) LISBON 6625 DTG 081304Z NOV 75

SUMMARY: SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS EXPECTEDLY PRAISED
NOV 9 AZEVEDO SPEECH. FAR LEFT WAS UNIFORMLY CRITICAL.
COMMUNIST LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL TOLD SUPPORTERS THAT REACTIONARY
FORCES FEEL STRENGTHENED BY ACTIONS OF PAST SEVERAL DAYS, BUT
THAT POLITICAL SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND. COMMUNIST PARTY ISSUED
CALL FOR SPECIAL VIGILANCE UNTIL NOV. 11.
LOW-LEVEL COPCON ALERT ISSUED NOV 8 AND CONTINUED SPORADIC
INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE ADDED TO TENSIONS SURROUNDING
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NOV 11 DATE. DESPITE ELEMENTS OF TENSION, LISBON IS

FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. END SUMMARY.

1. PARTIES REACT TO PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH: POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE REACTED PREDICTABLY TO PRIME MINISTER'S NOV 9 SPEECH (REF A). SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS HAVE LAUDED IT AS "COURAGEOUS" AND A "GREAT VICTORY". BOTH ATTRIBUTED RESPONSIBILITY TO MILITARY POLICE FOR INCIDENTS WHICH MARRED END OF LISBON DEMONSTRATION. THE EXTREME LEFT WAS UNIFORMLY CRITICAL IN ITS APPRAISAL. FELLOW-TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP) TERMED PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE "CATASTROPHIC AND ALARMIST" AND ALLEGED THAT DISTURBANCES HAD BEEN PROVOKED BY RIGHT. RADICAL MOVEMENT OF THE SOCIALIST LEFT (MES) AND ISABEL DO CARMO'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF THE PROLETARIAT (PRP) ALSO PANNEED SPEECH, THE FORMER EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE GRAVITY OF AZEVEDO'S ATTACKS ON LEFT, THE LATTER AFFIRMING THAT IT DEMONSTRATED AZEVEDO'S TIES TO SOCIAL DEMOCRACY.

2. PCP ALERT: COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) LEADER, ALVARO CUNHAL, ADDRESSED OPENING OF PCP'S WEEK-LONG PRO-USSR "AUTUMN FESTIVAL OF THE PEOPLE" AT SAME TIME PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WAS SPEAKING AT RALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT SEVERAL MILES AWAY. CUNHAL TOLD THE FESTIVAL THAT REACTIONARY FORCES FEEL STRENGTHENED BY ACTIONS OF THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, BUT THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND TO STRENGTHEN PROGRESSIVE FORCES. HE SAID THAT "FASCISTS THEMSELVES ARE NOT CAPABLE OF CAUSING SERIOUS PROBLEMS, BUT THAT OTHER FORCES HAVE ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH FASCISTS TO FIGHT AGAINST THE LEFT". CUNHAL SAID THAT "TERRORISM WOULD NOT STOP OUR FORCES". ON THE PREVIOUS DAY, NOV 8, THE PCP POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAD ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR THE "MOST EXTREME VIGILANCE" OF THE LEFT IN THE "PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS DAYS BEFORE NOV 11". PCP POINTED TO "VAST CONSPIRACY OF FASCISTS AND THE RIGHT AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION IN INTIMATE COLLABORATION WITH IMPERIALIST AND COLONIALIST AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA". STATEMENT CLAIMED THAT GOVERNMENT CHOSE TO IGNORE "TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE LEFT, WHILE THE POLICE REPRESS WORKERS AND SUPPORTERS AT THE MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND SILENCE RADIO RENASCENCA IN THE MOST BRUTAL MANNER". PCP CLAIMED THAT AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT WAS INCREASINGLY ISOLATED

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FROM THE WORKERS, AND THAT DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT SUCH AS THAT HELD NOV 9 WERE ONLY A CHORUS FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY DEMANDS. PCP CONCLUDED BY WARNING THAT "REVOLUTION IS AGAIN EXPERIENCING A GRAVE CRISIS", AND REITERATED CURRENT PCP LINE THAT RESTRUCTURING OF THE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT TO FORM A PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT AND POLITICAL VANGUARD OF THE ARMED FORCES IS INDISPENSABLE.

3. MORE INCIDENTS: IN ADDITION TO VIOLENCE REPORTED REF B, THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS OCCURRED:

-- A GRENADE WAS FIRED EARLY NOV 8 INTO AN OFFICE USED OCCASIONALLY BY ROSA COUTINHO. SAFETY WAS NOT RELEASED AND NO EXPLOSION OCCURRED.

-- DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT IN LISBON, NOV 9, FOR AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT BY MODERATE "NATIONAL COMMISSION OF WOMEN FOR DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION" WAS CONFRONTED BY GROUP OF LEFTISTS. MILITARY POLICE INTERVENED TO PREVENT VIOLENCE.

4. REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL WERE SPORADICALLY ACTIVE AS NOV 11 APPROACHES:

-- ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN ALFANDAGA DA FE, IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE OF TRAS-OS-MONTES, ATTACKED A COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICE, NOV 9, BURNING ITS FILES, AND INSTALLING A REFUGEE FAMILY TO LIVE THERE.

-- 3,000 REFUGEES STAGED A MARCH IN NORTHERN CITY OF VISEU SEEKING HOUSING, FACILITATED EMIGRATION AND AN ACCOUNTING OF PORTUGUESE ACTION IN AFRICA.

-- REFUGEE DEMONSTRATIONS NOV 7 IN OPORTO AND NOV 8 IN COIMBRA ATTRACTED FEW PARTICIPANTS.

5. COMMENT: LOW-LEVEL COPCON ALERT ISSUED AT 8:00 AM, NOV 8, AND CONTINUED SPORADIC INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE ADDED TO TENSIONS SURROUNDING NOV 11 DATE FOR ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE. POLITICAL PARTY SECRETARIES GENERAL MARIO SOARES, SA CARNEIRO, AND ALVARO CUNHAL, PRESIDENT, AND IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING MINISTER OF COOPERATION VITOR CRESPO, CONFIDENTIAL

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BEGAN LONG MEETING ON ANGOLA BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON NOV 9. DESPITE THE MANY ELEMENTS OF TENSION, LISBON IS OPERATING NORMALLY NOV 10, WITH NO MAJOR DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED DURING NEXT TWO DAYS.
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